

CLARE HAMMOND

piano

"... *stunningly performed by Clare Hammond*"

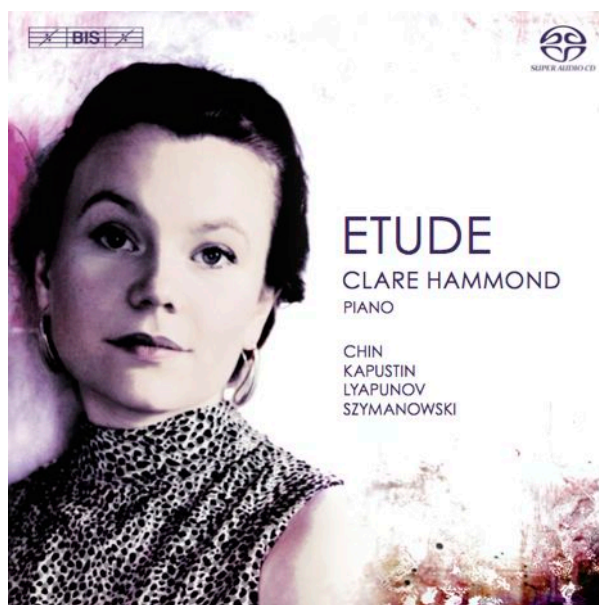
Gramophone Magazine UK

"... *a commandingly virtuosic performance*"

BBC Music Magazine

"... *skill, inspiration, clarity and an extraordinarily meticulous performance*"

Gramophone Magazine, Russia



PRESS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Pianist Clare Hammond releases a disc of études by Chin, Kapustin, Lyapunov and Szymanowski

"I have been highly impressed by Clare Hammond's vivid musicianship and her rock-solid technique... her programming reveals her intellectual curiosity and courageousness."

Unsub Chin

On **2 February 2015**, BIS Records will release Clare Hammond's disc of études by Unsub Chin, Nikolai Kapustin, Sergei Lyapunov and Karol Szymanowski. This imaginative programme combines some of the most electrifying and adventurous piano works of the 20th and 21st centuries. Ranging from the impassioned late-Romanticism of Lyapunov to Chin's mercurial and visionary sound-world, this disc takes us on a kaleidoscopic tour of the piano and its possibilities.

Clare became fascinated by Chin's études after performing them for the BBC at a Total Immersion weekend in 2011. She says "I initially found them daunting as they're fiendishly difficult, but I became intrigued by ways to overcome technical demands and to project the wit and inventiveness that lay beyond". All of the études on the disc reflect this dilemma: how to contend with an avalanche of intricate figuration while emphasising the imaginative vitality and vivid expression that the composer intended.

Each composer builds upon tradition while inventing novel challenges for the pianist to overcome. Chin structures her études in layers, with repeated rhythmic figurations, in a similar way to Ligeti, yet the breadth of dramatic expression and strong emphasis on fantasy is entirely her own. Russian composer-pianists Lyapunov and Kapustin build on late-Romantic bravura pianism and a jazz-inspired fusion respectively, while the études by Polish aesthete Szymanowski share the fluidity and volatility of Debussy's.

Clare has built a reputation as an advocate for 20th and 21st-century music and, in 2014, released a disc of piano works by Andrzej and Roxanna Panufnik for BIS. Acclaimed as a "commandingly virtuosic performance" by the BBC Music Magazine and "a fascinating compendium, expertly executed" by International Piano Magazine, the disc was also awarded 5 stars by Diapason. Clare gave a centenary tour of Poland, including a debut recital at the 'Chopin and his Europe Festival' in

Warsaw, and co-curated a centenary chamber festival at Kings Place with the Brodsky Quartet. She says of her next disc that “in many ways it seems strange to think of these pieces as ‘études’”. All clearly fulfil the technical requirements of the genre, but each goes so much further, showcasing an enormous range of emotion and expression with astonishing drama and flair.”

Notes to Editors

A dedicated press site for the disc with audio demos, promotional film, press photos, and a pdf of the press release, can be found at <http://www.clarehammond.com/etude.html>.

A disc launch will be held at the Music Hall, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Silk Street, Barbican EC2Y 8DT on Wednesday 4 February 7pm until 8.30pm. If you would like to attend, please email Jo Carpenter on jo@jocarpenter.com to reserve a ticket.

The disc has been supported by The British Korean Society, The Fidelio Charitable Trust, Help Musicians UK, The Stradivari Trust, and The Ambache Charitable Trust, who are active in raising the profile of women composers.

For further information, press CDs, downloads, photos and interview opportunities, please contact:
Jo Carpenter Music PR Consultancy E: jo@jocarpenter.com, T: 07771 538868

BIS Records, BIS 2004

Release date: 2 February 2015

Total playing time: 67'22

Sergei Lyapunov

3 Études d'Exécution Transcendante

- i. Térék'
- ii. Nuit d'été
- iii. Tempête

Unsuk Chin

Études, Nos. 1-6

- i. In C
- ii. Sequenzen
- iii. Scherzo ad libitum
- iv. Scalen
- v. Toccata
- vi. Grains

Karol Szymanowski

12 Études, Op. 33

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| i. Presto | vii. Allegro molto |
| ii. Andantino soave | viii. Lento assai mesto |
| iii. Vivace assai | ix. Animato |
| iv. Presto | x. Presto |
| v. Andante espressivo | xi. Andante soave |
| vi. Vivace | xii. Presto energico |

Nikolai Kapustin

Five Études in Different Intervals, Op. 68

- i. In minor seconds 'Allegro'
- ii. In fourths 'Allegro'
- iii. In sixths 'Animato'
- iv. In major seconds 'Vivace'
- v. In octaves 'Animato'



Photo © Julie Kim

Clare Hammond - biography

Acclaimed by The Daily Telegraph as a pianist of “*amazing power and panache*”, Clare Hammond gave debut recitals at the City of London, Cheltenham and Presteigne Festivals, and made return visits to the Wigmore and Bridgewater Halls in 2013. Her Purcell Room debut for the Park Lane Group concert series was praised by The Guardian for its “*crisp precision and unflashy intelligence*”. A passionate advocate of twentieth and twenty-first century music, Clare combines a formidable technique and virtuosic flair onstage with stylistic integrity and attention to detail. Highlights in 2014 include 3 BBC radio broadcasts, debut performances at 7 festivals across Europe, including the ‘Chopin and his Europe’ Festival in Warsaw, the world premieres of works by 10 composers, and a Panufnik Centenary tour of Poland under the aegis of the British Council’s ‘Artists’ International Development Fund’.

Clare’s recent disc release, *Reflections*, of the piano music of Andrzej and Roxanna Panufnik, was featured on BBC Radio 3’s ‘CD Review’, and her performance described as “*commandingly virtuosic*” in BBC Music Magazine. International Piano Magazine recommended the disc as a “*fascinating compendium, expertly executed*” and it was awarded 5 stars in Diapason who stated that “*Hammond excels at instilling each piece with atmosphere*”. She is a regular guest on ‘In Tune’, was featured on ‘Hear and Now’ with a recording of études by Unsuk Chin in 2013, and her recital at the Wigmore Hall in 2012 was broadcast on ‘Live in Concert’. Her performance that evening of *Le Tombeau de Couperin* by Ravel was chosen as one of BBC Radio 3’s classical highlights for the month and later broadcast on Radio 4 in the Netherlands. Notable performances in 2013 included the premieres of major works by Kenneth Hesketh and Robert Saxton, three BBC broadcasts and two discs for BIS records. The second, of études by Unsuk Chin, Karol Szymanowski, Nikolai Kapustin and Sergei Lyapunov, will be released internationally in February 2015.

In recent years, Clare has performed at St George's Bristol, the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh, Cheltenham Town Hall, the Barber Institute in Birmingham and the City of London, Presteigne and Brighton Festivals. The Guardian wrote of her performance of Ken Hesketh's *Horae* at the Cheltenham Festival that she 'displayed its scintillating passagework and poetic calm with great flair'. Clare has just been selected to participate in the Philip Langridge Mentoring Scheme, under the auspices of the Royal Philharmonic Society, through which she will work with French pianist Anne Queffélec. An active chamber musician, Clare has worked with Andrew Kennedy, Jennifer Pike, Philippe Graffin, Lawrence Power, Ruth Palmer, Sara Trickey and the Endellion, Piatti, Dante and Badke String Quartets. Clare is curating a chamber festival at Kings Place in November 2014, to celebrate the centenary of the birth of composer Andrzej Panufnik, at which she will perform alongside the Brodsky Quartet and mezzo soprano Heather Shipp.

Eager to extend the boundaries of traditional concert life, Clare is intrigued by new perspectives that musicological study can bring to bear on performance. She completed a doctorate on twentieth-century left-hand piano concertos in 2012 and is in demand as a speaker, regularly giving presentations for research series at universities across the UK.

Clare completed a BA at Cambridge University, where she obtained a double first in music, and undertook postgraduate study with Ronan O'Hora at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and with Professor Rhian Samuel at City University London. She is grateful for the support of the Fidelio Charitable Trust, Musicians' Benevolent Fund, RVW Trust, the Vernon Ellis Foundation, Stradivari Trust and the Chandos Memorial Trust. Clare is represented by Liz Webb Management.

<http://www.clarehammond.com>

<http://www.bis.se>

<https://www.facebook.com/clarehammondpiano>